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| APPLICATION NO.   | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR               | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/540,362  | 06/23/2005  | Viatcheslav Dmitrievich Shapovalov | 0065.0001US1        | 3493             |
| 29127   | 7590        | 01/15/2008                         | EXAMINER            |                  |
| HOUSTON ELISEEVA<br>4 MILITIA DRIVE, SUITE 4<br>LEXINGTON, MA 02421 |             |                                    | ZHU, WEIPING        |                  |
|   |             | ART UNIT                           | PAPER NUMBER        |                  |
|   |             | 1793                               |                     |                  |
|   |             | MAIL DATE                          | DELIVERY MODE       |                  |
|   |             | 01/15/2008                         | PAPER               |                  |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

|                              |                         |                     |  |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|--|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | <b>Application No.</b>  | <b>Applicant(s)</b> |  |
|                              | 10/540,362              | SHAPOVALOV ET AL.   |  |
|                              | Examiner<br>Weiping Zhu | Art Unit<br>1793    |  |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 January 2008.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.      2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
  1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

|  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                     | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Status of Claims***

1. Claims 1-21 are currently under examination, wherein no claim has been amended in applicant's amendment filed on July 5, 2007.

### ***Status of Previous Rejections***

2. The previous rejections of claims 1-6, 8-18, 20 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Schulze (US 4,561,947) and the previous rejections of claims 7 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schulze ('947) as stated in the Office action dated August 30, 2007 are maintained.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-6, 8-18, 20 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Schulze ('947) as stated in the Office action dated August 30, 2007.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 7 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schulze ('947) as stated in the Office action dated August 30, 2007.

***Response to Arguments***

5. The applicant's arguments filed on November 14, 2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The applicant argues that neither thiourea, nor its oxidized form, most likely formamidine disulfide is oxygen-containing, as opposed to the oxidant used in the instant invention. The instant claim 1 comprises the element of treating the ore with an oxygen-containing oxidant. This element is not taught or suggested in Schulze ('947). In response, the examiner notes that Schulze ('947) discloses treating the ore with oxygen-containing oxidants such as ferric salts , chlorine, peroxides, nitrates and chlorates in the presence of a solvent and a reduction agent (col. 2, lines 1-7 and 44-64), which inherently meet the claim limitations of the instant claim 1. Schulze ('947) further discloses the use of thiourea is preferred since, by means of its action, noble metals are brought into solution especially quickly in the form of complexes (col. 2 lines 8-10), which, however, has not been relied upon to establish the ground(s) of the rejection.

***Conclusion***

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Weiping Zhu whose telephone number is 571-272-6725. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-16:30 Monday to Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Roy King can be reached on 571-272-1244. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

R  
ROY KING  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700

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1/7/2008